

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 PM-03 L-02 IO-03 NEA-06

EB-03 SCI-03 PRS-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00 INR-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 OMB-01 FEAE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

INRE-00 SSO-00 EUR-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5330

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CARACAS 7851

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: MEETINGS WITH KEY ARAB LEADERS THIS WEEK AND SUPPORT
FOR US STRAITS OBJECTIVES

FROM US DEL LOS

DEPT PLEASE PASS INGERSOLL, SISCO, ATHERTON, MAW AND MCINTYRE
(D/LOS)

FROM STEVENSON AND MOORE

1. LOS DEL HAS BEEN HOLDING GENERAL DISCUSSIONS ON STRAITS ISSUE
WITH A NUMBER OF ARAB COUNTRIES IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS INCLUDING EGYPT,
KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, LEBANON AND IRAQ. DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT
EXPLORING US STRAITS POSITION AND BUILDING ON COMMON INTEREST OF
MANY ARAB STATES IN UNIMPEDED TRANSIT OF STRAITS BASED ON GEOGRA-
PHICAL LOCATION AND THEIR INTEREST IN THE MOVEMENT OF HYDROCARBON.
ARAB SUPPORT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO OUR STRAITS OBJECTIVES.

2. DEL UNDERSTANDS THAT HIGH LEVEL TALKS PLANNED IN DEPARTMENT
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WITH JORDAN AND SYRIA. US DEL FULLY UNDERSTANDS THAT PURPOSE OF

TALKS IS TO ADDRESS OTHER OVERRIDING ISSUES, BUT IF THESE STATES RAISE STRAITS ISSUE OR IF APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY ARISES, DEL RECOMMENDS POINTING OUT IMPORTANCE OF STRAITS ISSUE TO U.S. AND OUR STRONG COMMON INTEREST WITH MANY ARAB STATES ON THIS ISSUE.

3. MCINTYRE (D/LOS) CAN PROVIDE BACKGROUND BRIEFING INFORMATION AND TALKING POINTS.

4. LATEST ESTIMATE OF ARAB COUNTRY POSITIONS ON STRAITS BASED ON DISCUSSIONS AT CARACAS IS AS FOLLOWS: JORDAN IS NOT ATTENDING LOS CONFERENCE, WE UNDERSTAND, BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL BURDEN. INFO AVAILABLE HERE INDICATES JORDAN WOULD, IF PRESENT, SUPPORT U.S. POSITION. EGYPT: DOUBTS NEED FOR UNIMPEDED TRANSIT AND APPARENTLY FINDS SUBMERGED TRANSIT AND OVERFLIGHT PARTICULARLY TROUBLESOME. EGYPT HAS HINTED, HOWEVER, THAT IT COULD SUPPORT U.S. S STRAITS POSITION (EXCEPT OVERFLIGHT) IF COVERAGE ISSUE COULD BE RESOLVED. EGYPT ALSO HINTED TO U.S. THAT NON-SUSPENDABLE INNOCENT PASSAGE IN STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS AND TERRITORIAL SEA OF THIRD STATE MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO EGYPT AND THAT EGYPT IN TURN MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET ARAB BLOC ON BOARD. USSR CONFIDED YESTERDAY THAT EGYPT (HAMID) STATED THEN CATEGORICALLY THAT EGYPT WOULD SUPPORT ARTICLE 2 OF SOVIET APPROACH, WHICH PROVIDES FOR NON-SUSPENDABLE INNOCENT PASSAGE IN STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS TO TERRITORIAL SEA OF THIRD STATE AND FIRE TUNNEL IN STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS TO HIGH SEAS INCLUDING POSSIBLE QUOTE OVERFLIGHT WITH NOTIFICATION UNQUOTE OF U.S. FOUND USSR ARTICLE 2 APPROACH ACCEPTABLE. SAUDI ARABIA: SAUDIS STRONGLY FAVOR UNIMPEDED TRANSIT IN STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS TO HIGH SEAS. CLAIM TO BE UNINSTRUCTED ON SUBMERGED TRANSIT ISSUE, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THEY COULD ULTIMATELY SUPPORT U.S. POSITION. IRAQ: STRAITS POSITION CLOSELY PARALLELS SAUDIS. FEELS INNOCENT PASSAGE "TOO RESTRICTIVE" IN STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS TO HIGH SEAS. STRONGLY FAVORS DUWAIT PROPOSAL, CO/SPONSORED BY IRAQ, BAHRAIN, LIBYA, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, TUNISIA AND UAE THAT: "IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS CONVENTION, THE TERM STRAITS USED FOR INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION MEANS ANY STRAIT CONNECTING TWO PARTS OF THE HIGH SEAS AND CUSTOMARILY USED FOR INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION. KUWAIT: SUPPORTS UNIMPEDED TRANSIT IN STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS TO HIGH SEAS. APPEARS, HOWEVER, TO BE CONSIDERING A POSITION ON SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS WHICH WOULD LIMIT WARSHIP ACCESS TO THOSE OF RIPARIAN STATES. EXCLUSION OF SOVIETS FROM PERSIAN GULF AND RESULT-

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ING EFFECT ON IRAQ MIGHT BE SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE TO KUWAIT FOR THEM TO IGNORE U.S. INTERESTS. KUWAIT ALSO STRONGLY OPPOSES NON-SUSPENDABLE INNOCENT PASSAGE IN STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS TO TERRITORIAL SEA OF THIRD STATES. DOES NOT WANT TIRAN ISSUE RESOLVED TO LOS TREATY. LEBANON: FIRMLY SUPPORTS U.S. STRAITS POSITION IN VIEW OF LARGE FLAG OF CONVENIENCE FLEET AND RECOGNIZING STRATEGIC ASPECTS U.S. AND SOVIET POSITIONS. OPPOSES NON-SUSPENDABLE INNOCENT PASSAGE IN TIRAN MAINLY IN SUPPORT OF ARAB BRETHERN

AND BELIEVES PROBLEM SHOULD BE RESOLVED AT GENEVA NEXT YEAR
BY BILATERALS OR SPECIAL FORMULA.
STEVENSON

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